

A complete & perfect ['concise' but 'precise'] 'definition' of a 'SYSTEM' is the following -

A 'SYSTEM' is -

(1) an object / phenomenon / entity

(5) (*with an identity of its own*)

(2) that is an integral / holistic organization / assemblage of -

(3) inter-active / inter-related / inter-dependent components / units / elements / parts / (sub-systems),

(4) manifesting / exhibiting an emergent overall (system) behavior / property / feature / characteristics, and

(5) distinctly identifiable with an overall (system) function / goal / purpose.

Explanation:

The phrase (5) that was originally in parenthesis gets clarified in phrase (5) at the end, that is why the parentheses. The qualifier word 'system' in phrases (4) & (5) that qualifies overall-system-behavior and overall-system-function is put within parenthesis since otherwise it may evoke a question about circularity in the definition. In fact there is no circularity in the definition, the qualifier 'system' word that is in parenthesis can be thought of as one that is to be introduced after the definition - to indicate that the overall-behavior and overall-function are associated with the system and not to any subset of components thereof. Similarly, the word sub-system in phrase (3) is to be introduced after the definition, as a convenient term to refer to such components / units / elements / parts in relation to the system of which they are constituents.

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